



## STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** June 12, 2023

**Agenda Item:** Consolidated public use rules (ARM) for lands administered by FWP

**Action Needed:** Approval to initiate rulemaking

**Time Needed on Agenda:** 5 Minutes

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**Background:** FWP is proposing consolidated public use rules in the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) for all department lands (state parks, fishing access sites, wildlife management areas, wildlife habitat protection areas, and fisheries conservation areas). Currently, three different sets of public use rules are in place depending on site type. The purpose of the consolidated rules would be to consistently manage public uses across all lands while protecting fish and wildlife habitats as well as improving customer service and understanding of expectations for public use. The board has authority over the rules pertaining to state parks.

**Public Involvement Process:** The Montana Secretary of State defines and implements the ARM development and amendment process, including process steps and timeline. This includes opportunities for public participation. If the board approves the department's proposal to initiate rulemaking, the next step would be for the board to consider proposed language from the department. This step would occur at the August 2023 board meeting and include opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed language to the board.

**Alternatives & Analysis:**

Alternative A: Allow FWP to initiate rulemaking to propose a consolidated set of public use rules for all FWP land types to improve consistency and customer service.

Alternative B: Do not allow FWP to initiate rulemaking for a consolidated set of public use rules. FWP would continue to operate under three different sets of public use rules.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends the board allow the department to initiate rulemaking to propose a consolidated set of public use rules to improve consistency and customer service.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the State Parks and Recreation Board approve initiation of rulemaking on a consolidated set of public use rules for all lands administered by FWP.